

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 H-02 PRS-01 PA-01 DODE-00 TRSE-00

/055 W

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O 221605Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7465

NASA HQ WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1299

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NASA, MA, US

SUBJECT: NASA STATION CLOSURE: SITUATION REPORT NO. 4

REF: A. TANANARIVE 1286; B. TANANARIVE 1298

SUMMARY: ACTING FONMIN TOLD CHARGE JULY 22 THAT GOMR WILL NOT PERMIT ACCESS TO STATION UNTIL BACKRENT ISSUE SETTLED "AMICABLY" AND ALSO GAVE CHARGE NOTE DETAILING GOMR POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER PORTOS AMPY RECEIVED CHARGE AT 5:00 P.M. JULY 22 TO PROVIDE RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S AIDE MEMOIRE OF JULY 21 (REFTEL A). MINISTER SAIDTUT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN "FOR TIME BEING" UNTIL BACKRENT ISSUE IS SETTLED. CHARGE SAID THEN GOMR IS "NO LONGER GOING TO BE COOPERATIVE IN EQUIPMENT REMOVAL" AS INDICATED BY CHEF DE CABINET SOLOFOSON JULY 17. MINISTER SAID GOM'SACTION WAS NOT A "PROVOCATION" AND CONTINUED BY DETAILING GOMR POSITION AS STATED IN NOTE BELOW. MINISTER ASKED CHARGE IF PAYMENT OF MALAGASY EMPLOYEES COULD BEGIN SOON UNDER TERMS PROPOSED BY GOMR. CHARGE REPLIED, "WE'LL SEE."

2. FULL TEXT OF MOFA NOTE NO. 75/434 AE/SG/CF IS AS FOLLOWS:

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QUOTE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, REFERRING TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE DATED JULY 21, 1975 SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY BY THE UNITED STATES CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. CONCERN-

ING THE STEPS PREPARED BY THE EMBASSY TO BEGIN THE CLOSING OPERATIONS OF THE NASA STATION AT IMERINTSIATIOSIKA, HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. IN THIS CASE, THE UNITED STATES SIDE AND THE MALAGASY SIDE AGREED UPON THE PAYMENT IN PRINCIPLE OF RENTS FOR THE LAND AREAS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY AS PROVIDED FOR IN PARAGRAPHS 2(A) AND 2(B) OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES DATED OCTOBER 7, 1963.

2. THE DIFFERENCES CONCERN THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE AMOUNT OF THE RENT WHICH IS ANNUALLY FMG 200 MILLIONS FOR THE MALAGASY SIDE AND FMG 20 MILLIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES SIDE.

B) THE BEGINNING DATE FOR THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE PAYMENTS, WHICH IS JANUARY 1, 1964 FOR THE MALAGASY SIDE AND JANUARY 1, 1973 FOR THE UNITED STATES SIDE.

3. THERE DOES, THEREFORE, EXIST A MATTER IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, SO THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT CANNOT COMPLY WITH REQUESTS FORMULATED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE ABOVE-MENTIONED, NAMELY CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF EQUIPMENT INASMUCH AS THE SAID CONTENTIOUS MATTER IS NOT SETTLED, IN WHATEVER MANNER IT MAY BE, EITHER BY CONCILIATION OR BY ARBITRATION OR BY JURISDICTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL COURT.

HOWEVER, TO PERMIT SALARY PAYMENTS TO BE EFFECTED AND THE STATION'S DEBTS TO BE PAID, THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES SUCH PAYMENT TO BE MADE AT THE EMBASSY BUT NOT

AT THE STATION. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE SIX MALAGASY AND THREE U.S. EMPLOYEES, AS REQUESTED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE, WILL BE PERMITTED TO HAVE ACCESS INTO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE STATION WITH MALAGASY SECURITY FORCES TO TAKE THE MINIMUM DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE SAID PAYMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND TO BE CARRIED TO THE EMBASSY AFTER A REPORT LISTING THE DOCUMENTS TAKEN AWAY HAS BEEN PREPARED AND SIGNED, AFTER FULL AGREEMENT OF BOTH PARTIES.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TAKES THIS OCCASION TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGH CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE.

3. EMBASSY COMMENTS:

CHARGE BIT HIS TONGUE DURING MEETING BUT MINISTER'S CONCILIATORY TONE PROBABLY REFLECTION OF HIS APPRECIATION OF CHARGE'S UNHAPPINESS WITH GOMR REVERSAL. WE EXPECT STHAT DEPARTMENT

AND NASA HAVE SUSPECTED FOR SOME TIME, AS WE HAVE, THAT
POSITION GOMR HAS NOW TAKEN COULD EMERGE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE
ALL HAD TO PROCEED ON BASIS OF WHAT GOMR WAS SAYING LAST
WEEK. WHY RATSIRAKA DANCED AROUND THIS ISSUE FROM JULY 17
UNTIL TODAY NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT, BUT THAT RIGHT NOW IS
BESIDES THE POINT. EMBASSY'S DETAILED COMMENTS FOLLOW IN
SEPTEL. IF NASA AND DEPARTMENT ALREADY HAVE DEVELOPED
POSITON FOR THIS CONTINGENCY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING SAME SOONEST EVEN IF EMBASSY IS TO TAKE NO
IMMEDIATE ACTION THEREON.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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